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15
18. (amended) The system of claim [14] ¹²22 further comprising:
monitoring means for detecting failures in each segment; and
deactivating means for deactivating each of said segments when a failure is detected.

C5
1720. (amended) The system of claim [14] ¹²22 wherein said discrete events comprise either
individual events, master events or child events, each master event having a plurality of child events
associated therewith and wherein said grouping means groups each child event and the master event
associated therewith into the same segment.

1924. (amended) The system of claim [14] ¹²22 wherein said at least one processor comprises a
symmetrical multiprocessing system.

C6
228. (amended) The system of claim [14] ¹²22 wherein said at least one processor comprises a
massively parallel processing system.

2126. (amended) The system of claim [14] ¹²22 wherein said at least one processor comprises a
loosely coupled distributed system.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 8, 9, 22, and 23. Applicants have amended claims 2-4, 6, and 10-13 to depend from allowed claim 8 and have amended claims 16-18, 20, and 24-26 to depend from allowed claim 22. Further, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 7, 14, 15, 21, 27, and 28, without prejudice. As a result of these amendments, claims 2-6, 8-13, 16-20, and 22-26 are pending in the above-captioned patent application, and in order to expedite processing of this application, Applicants are enclosing the text of all claims pending after entry of the foregoing amendments.

No new matter is added by these amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments and reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, 10-15, 18-21, and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,179, 702 to Spix et al. ("Spix") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,304,454 to Record et al. ("Record"). Further, claims 2, 3, 16, 17, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly rendered obvious by Spix in view of Record, and further

in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,303,297 to Hillis. These rejections were made **final** by the Office Action mailed September 4, 1996. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

On December 4, 1996, Applicants submitted a responsive amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 in response to the Office Action mailed September 4, 1996. This responsive amendment proposed canceling claim 28, without prejudice, and amending claims 1, 14, and 27. In an Advisory Action mailed December 20, 1996, the Examiner indicated that "[t]he proposed amendments will not be entered because: they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search [and] they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal." In particular, the Examiner stated that "[t]he newly added claim limitations (regarding concurrent execution and sequential processing of discrete events) require further search and/or consideration."

As noted above, the Examiner has allowed claims 8, 9, 22, and 23. Claims 8 and 22 are independent claims. Applicants have amended claims 2-4, 6, and 10-13 to depend from allowed claim 8 and have amended claims 16-18, 20, and 24-26 to depend from allowed claim 22. Claim 5 is dependent from amended claim 4, and claim 19 is dependent from amended claim 18. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraws the obviousness rejections to claims 2-6, 10-13, 16-20, and 24-26.

In addition, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 7, 14, 15, 21, 27, and 28, without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants maintain that pending claims 1-6, 8-13, 16-20, and 22-26 are now allowed or allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview, either in person or by telephone, with Applicants' representatives would further assist the prosecution

of this application, we would welcome the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures